



CONGRESSMAN

MIKE ROGERS

Veterans Update

NOVEMBER 2004

■ **Rogers Speaks at Groundbreaking of New Holly VA Cemetery**

Along with Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi and other dignitaries, Congressman Mike Rogers spoke at the groundbreaking of the new Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

"What we are creating today is a monument," Rogers said. "What you will see here is hallowed ground where our soldiers lie in peace."

When the cemetery becomes operational in mid-2005, it will serve nearly 460,000 veterans and their families who live within 75 miles of the site. When completed, the cemetery's 50-acre initial construction phase will contain 6,500 full-casket gravesites, consisting of 5,200 pre-placed crypts and 1,300 traditional full-casket gravesites, plus a 1,700-unit columbarium and 1,500 sites for in-ground cremated remains.

Veterans with a discharge (other than dishonorable), their spouses and dependent children are eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Other burial benefits for eligible veterans include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker – even if they are not buried in a national cemetery.

Information about the Great Lakes National Cemetery is available at 810-695-2007.

■ **President Bush Signs Legislation to Increase Disability Rates**

Disability compensation payments will receive a cost-of-living boost as a result of legislation approved by Congress and signed by President Bush last month. For a 100% service-connected disabled veteran without dependents, the new monthly payment is expected to rise to approximately \$2,300 per month, totaling \$27,600 per year. Additional compensation is available for disabled veterans with dependent children and for other mitigating factors, such as residual effects of catastrophic disabilities.

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